Task Force on transformation of India into a 'Knowledge Superpower'

4250. SHRI R.R GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force set up by the Planning Commission to suggest strategy for transformation of India into a "Knowledge Super Power" has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the thrust areas of study and major recommendations made by the Task Force;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) in what way a vision of India in this respect compare with the expected progress by neighbouring countries in the next 20 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Copy of the recommendations of the Task Force has been placed in the Parliament Library for reference.

(c) Report has been submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. It has also been circulated to all ministries and State Governments. The Task Force has recommended that a Cabinet Committee on Knowledge Society should be constituted.

(d) The Task Force has visualized India's emergence as knowledge superpower taking into account its natural resource endowments, *viz,* vast coast line, minerals unique biodiversity and human resources in particular skilled manpower.

Poverty alleviation programmes

4251. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the poverty alleviation programmes in the country have been found ineffective in so far its formulation and implementation arc concerned;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has expressed its serious concern over the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in the country;